REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments, and the following remarks. Claims 1-5 have been canceled. Claims 6-8 are pending.

The specification has been amended to further clarify that the conventional method described on page 1 of the specification is that of Price.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-8 under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Price. Applicant respectfully traverses.

The structure of the reinforcing strip cannot be easily invented from a reinforcing strip (stabilizing member) disclosed in Price. In the attached appendix #1 is a conventional reinforcing strip disclosed in Price, and #2 is a reinforcing strip of the present invention.

In general, a reinforcing strip is formed by covering high tenacity synthetic fibers of polyester with a polyethylene sheath, so as to have a proper thickness.

The conventional reinforcing strip, such as the reinforcing

strip disclosed in Price, is connected to anchors or brackets protruding from the rear surface of a panel or a block, serving as a front member of an earth wall, by an anchor pin or bar, and the remaining portion of the reinforcing strip except for the connecting portion, is horizontally buried under a reinforced earth, and thus serves to reinforce and stabilize the reinforced earth and support a front member. The conventional reinforcing strip cannot be folded in the lengthwise direction from the viewpoint of its material itself, and need not be folded in the lengthwise direction in a conventional reinforcing strip construction method. The conventional reinforcing strip merely has flexibility so as to be installed in a zigzag shape.

On the other hand, the reinforcing strip of the present invention has an enhanced structure so as to be suitable for being used in a construction method in which the reinforcing strip is directly connected to a front member of an earth wall without using any additional anchors or brackets and anchor pins or bars.

That is, as stated in claims 6 and 7 of the present invention, a folding groove is formed in the central portion of the reinforcing strip in the lengthwise direction, and preferably the folding groove is formed both in upper and lower surfaces of

the reinforcing strip.

The reasons and effects of the reinforcing strip of the present invention configured such that it can be folded into halves and selectively folded up or down are as follows:

First, one object of the present invention is to allow the reinforcing strip to have a structure suitable for being used in a method in which the reinforcing strip is connected directly to a front member of an earth wall without a subsidiary material.

That is, the present invention minimizes the depth of a groove for hanging the reinforcing strip on the upper surface of a block, i.e., the front member of the earth wall, and thus overcomes a technical problem of difficulty in increasing the depth of the groove when the block is molded.

In other words, the increase in the depth of the groove for inserting the reinforcing strip into the block lowers the structural strength of the block and generates failures, such as breakage of the circumference of the groove when the block is separated from molds, and increases the generation of cracks starting from the deep groove. Thus, it is necessary to minimize the depth of the groove of the block if possible.

Accordingly, the reinforcing strip has a fixed width, and thus the only way to connect the reinforcing strip directly to the front member is the folding of the reinforcing strip in the lengthwise direction so as to decrease the width of the reinforcing strip.

On the other hand, the conventional reinforcing strip is not designed such that it can be substantially folded, (see #1 of the appendix), and thus cannot be used in the construction method in which the reinforcing strip is connected directly to the block. However, the reinforcing strip of the present invention is provided with the folding groove formed in the central portion thereof in the lengthwise direction such that it can be easily folded into halves, and thus the reinforcing strip folded into halves can be connected directly to the groove having the minimal depth formed in the block.

Furthermore, the present invention does not require insert molding so as to form separate metal anchors (or brackets) on the block, differing from Price, and thus facilitates the production of the block and reduces the production costs of the block, and does not use a bar or pin for hanging the reinforcing strip onto the anchors or brackets and thus reduces costs of subsidiary materials.

Second, another object of the present invention is to provide a reinforcing strip, which is easily constructed without a tensing process. That is, the reinforcing strip of the present invention is inserted directly into the groove formed in the block under the condition that the reinforcing strip is folded into halves and then erected, and thus the reinforcing strip extended to the rear surface of the block is gradually spread, and the spread portion of the reinforcing strip is laid down and is rectilinearly placed on the reinforced earth. Therefore, a process for lightening the reinforcing strip using human power or other tools is not required.

On the other hand, in the method disclosed in Price, the reinforcing strip supporting the front member of an earth wall is buried under a reinforced earth. Thus, the method requires a process for tightly tensing the rear end of the reinforcing strip by three to five persons using human power or other equipment such that a portion of the reinforcing strip connected to brackets protruded from the rear surface of the front member by pins can be folded flat. For the reference, Price describes a process for tensioning the stabilizing members (reinforcing strips). Thereby, the conventional methods for constructing the reinforcing strip including the method disclosed in Price cause several problems when an earth wall is constructed, such as

increase in labor costs and delay in construction time.

Further, in the conventional methods for constructing the reinforcing strip including the method disclosed Price, when the reinforcing strip is tensed, the connection portion of the reinforcing strip with the front wall is bent within a small radius in the widthwise direction. Then, shear stress is concentrated on the connection portion of the reinforcing strip, thus lowering the strength of the reinforcing strip.

Therefore, compared to the conventional reinforcing strip constructing methods including the method disclosed in Price, the reinforcing strip of the present invention is easily constructed, increases a construction speed, and prevents the local concentration of stress on the reinforcing strip.

Third, yet another object of the present invention is to allow the reinforcing strip to be folded into halves up or down without limitation of folding direction.

That is, since the folding groove is formed both in the upper and lower surfaces of the reinforcing strip of the present invention so as to cause the reinforcing strip to be selectively folded up or down for the convenience of constructors or

according to construction direction at the construction site, the reinforcing strip can be folded into halves in any direction, thus offering convenience to workers and eliminating restrictions in construction.

Further, protrusions for displaying the length of the reinforcing strip are formed at regular intervals on the surface of the reinforcing strip, as stated in claim 8. The protrusions allow a worker to estimate the length of the reinforcing strip without a separate scale, thereby allowing the worker to cut or fold the reinforcing strip to a designated length.

Accordingly, the subject matter claimed in claims 6 to 8 of the present invention are not disclosed in Price and are not easily invented from Price or are not merely modified from Price by those skilled in the art. Further, the present invention claims a reinforcing strip, which is folded into halves, suitable for being used in a novel construction method in which the reinforcing strip is connected directly to a front member of an earth wall, completely differing from a reinforcing strip construction method using brackets and bars disclosed in Price.

The features of claims 6-8 are not taught or suggested by the cited reference. Accordingly, early allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on March 12, 2008.

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